By: Wentwark

5.B. No. <u>629</u>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1	AN ACT
2	relating to the creation of magistrates in Comal County.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. Chapter 54, Government Code, is amended by
5	adding Subchapter W to read as follows:
6	SUBCHAPTER W. MAGISTRATES IN COMAL COUNTY
7	Sec. 54.1151. AUTHORIZATION; APPOINTMENT; ELIMINATION.
8	(a) The Commissioners Court of Comal County may authorize the
9	judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal County
10	to appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates to
11	perform the duties authorized by this subchapter.
12	(b) The judges of the district and statutory county courts
13	in Comal County by a unanimous vote may appoint magistrates as
14	authorized by the Commissioners Court of Comal County.
15	(c) An order appointing a magistrate must be signed by the
16	local presiding judge of the district courts serving Comal County,
17	and the order must state:
18	(1) the magistrate's name; and
19	(2) the date the magistrate's employment is to begin.
20	(d) An authorized magistrate's position may be eliminated
21	on a majority vote of the Commissioners Court of Comal County.
22	Sec. 54.1152. QUALIFICATIONS; OATH OF OFFICE. (a) To be
23	eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must:
24	(1) be a citizen of the United States;

2	years preceding the person's appointment; and
3	(3) be at least 30 years of age.
4	(b) A magistrate appointed under Section 54.1151 must take
5	the constitutional oath of office required of appointed officers of
6	this state.
7	Sec. 54.1153. COMPENSATION. (a) A magistrate is entitled
8	to the salary determined by the Commissioners Court of Comal
9	County.
LO	(b) A full-time magistrate's salary may not be less than
11	that of a justice of the peace of Comal County as established by the
12	annual budget of Comal County.
13	(c) A part-time magistrate's salary is equal to the per-hour
14	salary of a justice of the peace. The per-hour salary is determined
15	by dividing the annual salary by a 2000 work-hour year. The local
16	administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County
17	shall approve the number of hours to be paid a part-time magistrate.
18	(d) The magistrate's salary is paid from the county fund
19	available for payment of officers' salaries.
20	Sec. 54.1154. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A magistrate has the same
21	judicial immunity as a district judge.
22	Sec. 54.1155. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. (a) A magistrate
23	may be terminated by a majority vote of all the judges of the
24	district and statutory county courts of Comal County.
25	(b) To terminate a magistrate's employment, the local
26	administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County
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1

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2	(2) the final date of the magistrate's employment.
3	Sec. 54.1156. JURISDICTION; RESPONSIBILITY; POWERS. (a)
4	The judges of the district or statutory county courts shall
5	establish standing orders to be followed by a magistrate or parties
6	appearing before a magistrate, as applicable.
7	(b) To the extent authorized by this subchapter and the
8	standing orders, a magistrate has jurisdiction to exercise the
9	authority granted by the judges of the district or statutory county
LO	courts.
11	(c) A magistrate has all of the powers of a magistrate under
L2 .	the laws of this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.
L3	(d) A magistrate shall give preference to performing the
L 4	duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal
L5	Procedure.
L6	(e) A magistrate is authorized to:
L7	(1) set, adjust, and revoke bonds before the filing of
L8	an information or the return of an indictment;
L9	(2) conduct examining trials;
20	(3) determine whether a defendant is indigent and
21	appoint counsel for an indigent defendant;
22	(4) issue search and arrest warrants;
23	(5) issue emergency protective orders;
24	(6) order emergency mental commitments; and
25	(7) conduct initial juvenile detention hearings if
26	approved by the Juvenile Board of Comal County.
27	(f) With the express authorization of a justice of the

1	beace, a magistrate may exercise conduirent eliminar jurisdiction
2	with the justice of the peace to dispose as provided by law of cases
3	filed in the precinct of the authorizing justice of the peace,
4	except for a trial on the merits following a plea of not guilty.
5	(g) A magistrate may:
6	(1) issue notices of the setting of a case for a
7	hearing;
8	(2) conduct hearings;
9	(3) compel production of evidence;
-0	(4) hear evidence;
_1	(5) issue summons for the appearance of witnesses;
.2	(6) swear witnesses for hearings;
L3	(7) regulate proceedings in a hearing; and
L 4	(8) perform any act and take any measure necessary and
L5	proper for the efficient performance of the duties required by the
L6	magistrate's jurisdiction and authority.
L7	Sec. 54.1157. PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SPACE. The
L8	Commissioners Court of Comal County shall provide:
L9	(1) personnel for the legal or clerical functions
20	necessary to perform the magistrate's duties authorized by this
21	<pre>chapter; and</pre>
22	(2) provide sufficient equipment and office space for
23	the magistrate and personnel to perform the magistrate's essential
24	functions.
25	SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26	a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7	provided by Section 39. Article III. Texas Constitution. If this

- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

1-1 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 21, 2003; February 27, 2003, first time and referred to Committee on Jurisprudence; 1 - 3read March 24, 2003, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; March 24, 2003, sent to printer.) 1 - 41-5 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1-6 1-7 AN ACT relating to the creation of magistrates in Comal County. 1-8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: 1-9 SECTION 1. Chapter 54, Government Code, adding Subchapter W to read as follows: is amended by 1-10 1-11 SUBCHAPTER W. MAGISTRATES IN COMAL COUNTY 1-12 Sec. 54.1151. AUTHORIZATION; APPOINTMENT; ELIMINATION.

(a) The Commissioners Court of Comal County may authorize the judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal County to appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates to 1-13 1-14 1-15 1-16 perform the duties authorized by this subchapter. 1-17 1 - 18The judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal County by a unanimous vote may appoint magistrates as 1-19 authorized by the Commissioners Court of Comal County.

(c) An order appointing a magistrate must be signed by the 1-20 1-21 local presiding judge of the district courts serving Comal County, 1-22 1-23 and the order must state: (1) the magistrate's name; and 1-24 (2) the date the magistrate's employment is to begin. An authorized magistrate's position may be eliminated 1-25 1-26 on a majority vote of the Commissioners Court of Comal County. 1-27 To be 54.1152. QUALIFICATIONS; OATH OF OFFICE. 1-28 (a) Sec eligible for appointment as a magistrate, a person must:

(1) be a citizen of the United States;
(2) have resided in Comal County for at least the two 1-29 1-30 1-31 years preceding the person's appointment; and 1-32 (3) be at least 30 years of age. 1-33 A magistrate appointed under Section 54.1151 must take 1-34 the constitutional oath of office required of appointed officers of 1-35 this state.
Sec. 54.1153. 1-36 1-37 (a) A magistrate is entitled COMPENSATION. the salary determined by the Commissioners Court of Comal 1-38 1 - 39County. (b) A full-time magistrate's salary may not be less than 1 - 40that of a justice of the peace of Comal County as established by the annual budget of Comal County. 1 - 411-42 (c) A part-time magistrate's salary is equal to the per-hour salary of a justice of the peace. The per-hour salary is determined by dividing the annual salary by a 2000 work-hour year. The local administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County shall approve the number of hours to be paid a part-time magistrate. 1-43 1 - 441-45 1 - 461-47 (d) The magistrate's salary is paid from the county fund 1-48 available for payment of officers' salaries. 1 - 49Sec. 54.1154. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. A magistrate has the same 1-50 judicial immunity as a district judge.

Sec. 54.1155. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. (a) A magistrate may be terminated by a majority vote of all the judges of the 1-51 1-52 1-53 district and statutory county courts of Comal County. 1-54 (b) To terminate a magistrate's employment, the local administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County must sign a written order of termination. The order must state: 1-55 1-56 1-57 the magistrate's name; and 1-58 (1) (2) the final date of the magistrate's employment. 1-59 Sec. 54.1156. JURISDICTION; RESPONSIBILITY; POWERS.

(a) The judges of the district or statutory county courts shall establish standing orders to be followed by a magistrate or parties 1-60 1-61 1-62 1-63 appearing before a magistrate, as applicable. (b) To the extent authorized by this subchapter and the 1-64

By:

Wentworth

S.B. No. 629

S.B. No. 629 standing orders, a magistrate has jurisdiction to exercise the authority granted by the judges of the district or statutory county 2-1 2-2 2-3 courts. 2 - 4

(c) A magistrate has all of the powers of a magistrate under the laws of this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.

(d) A magistrate shall give preference to performing the duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure.

(e)

A magistrate is authorized to:

(1) set, adjust, and revoke bonds before the filing of an information or the return of an indictment;

conduct examining trials;

determine whether a defendant is indigent and (3)appoint counsel for an indigent defendant;

(4) issue search and arrest warrants;

issue emergency protective orders; (5)

(6) order emergency mental commitments; and

(7) conduct initial juvenile detention hearings if approved by the Juvenile Board of Comal County.

(f) With the express authorization of a justice of the peace, a magistrate may exercise concurrent criminal jurisdiction with the justice of the peace to dispose as provided by law of cases filed in the precinct of the authorizing justice of the peace, except for a trial on the merits following a plea of not guilty.

A magistrate may:

issue notices of the setting of a case for a

hearing;

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2-35 2-36 2 - 372-38

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- conduct hearings; (2)
- compel production of evidence; $\overline{(3)}$

(4) hear evidence;

issue summons for the appearance of witnesses; (5)

swear witnesses for hearings;

regulate proceedings in a hearing; and (7)

perform any act and take any measure necessary and proper for the efficient performance of the duties required by the magistrate's jurisdiction and authority.

Sec. 54.1157. PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SPACE. The

Commissioners Court of Comal County shall provide:

(1) personnel for the legal or clerical functions necessary to perform the magistrate's duties authorized by this chapter; and

provide sufficient equipment and office space for the magistrate and personnel to perform the magistrate's essential

functions.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

* * * *

FAVORABLE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT ON

(SB)	SCR	SJR	SR	нв	HCR	ӉJR	629
		By	$-\nu$	Ven	twor:	Sponsor)	
				(Auth	or/Senate	Sponsor)	
				<u> 3</u> .	24-	-03	
					(date)		

We, your Committee on	JURISPRUDENCE	, to which was referred the attached measure,
have on 03/19/03 (date of hear back with the recommendation (s)	ring)	e under consideration and I am instructed to report it
(v do pass and be printed		
() do pass and be ordered not prin		
and is recommended for placem	ent on the Local and Uncont	ested Bills Calendar.
A fiscal note was requested.	yes () no	
A revised fiscal note was requested.	() yes () no	
An actuarial analysis was requested	d. () yes (no	
Considered by subcommittee.	() yes () no	
The measure was reported from Cor	nmittee by the following vot	e:

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PNV
Senator Robert Duncan, Chairman				
Senator Mario Gallegos, Vice-Chairman				
Senator Kip Averitt				
Senator Teel Bivins				
Senator Chris Harris	V			
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.				
Senator Royce West				
TOTAL VOTES	6	0	1 1	0

COMMITTEE ACTION

S260 Considered in public hearing	
S270 Testimony taken	
	\wedge \prime
/	Robert
COMMITTED OF EDA	CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEÉ ELERK	CHAINVIAN

Paper clip the original and one copy of this signed form to the original bill Retain one copy of this form for Committee files

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center 78R4711 YDB-D

S.B. 629 By: Wentworth Jurisprudence 3/10/2003 As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The commissioners court of Comal County has requested the authority to authorize the appointment of one or more magistrates in that county. As proposed, S.B. 629 authorizes the commissioners court of Comal County to authorize district and county court at law judges in Comal County to appoint one or more full-time or part-time magistrates and sets forth the qualifications, compensation, jurisdiction, responsibility, and powers of such magistrates.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 54, Government Code, by adding Subchapter W, as follows:

SUBCHAPTER W. MAGISTRATES IN COMAL COUNTY

- Sec. 54.1151. AUTHORIZATION; APPOINTMENT; ELIMINATION. (a) Authorizes the Commissioners Court of Comal County to authorize the judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal County to appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates to perform the duties authorized by this subchapter.
 - (b) Authorizes the judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal County by a unanimous vote to appoint magistrates as authorized by the Commissioners Court of Comal County.
 - (c) Requires an order appointing a magistrate to be signed by the local presiding judge of the district courts serving Comal County and requires the order to state certain information.
 - (d) Provides that an authorized magistrate's position may be eliminated on a majority vote of the Commissioners Court of Comal County.
- Sec. 54.1152. QUALIFICATIONS; OATH OF OFFICE. (a) Requires a person, to be eligible for appointment as a magistrate, to meet certain qualifications.
 - (b) Requires a magistrate appointed under Section 54.1151 to take the constitutional oath of office required of appointed officers of this state.
- Sec. 54.1153. COMPENSATION. (a) Provides that a magistrate is entitled to the salary determined by the Commissioners Court of Comal County.
 - (b) Prohibits a full-time magistrate's salary from being less than that of a justice of the

peace of Comal County as established by the annual budget of Comal County.

- (c) Provides that a part-time magistrate's salary is equal to the per-hour salary of a justice of the peace. Provides that the per-hour salary is determined by dividing the annual salary by a 2000 work-hour year. Requires the local administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County to approve the number of hours to be paid a part-time magistrate.
- (d) Provides that the magistrate's salary is paid from the county fund available for payment of officers' salaries.
- Sec. 54.1154. JUDICIAL IMMUNITY. Provides that a magistrate has the same judicial immunity as a district judge.
- Sec. 54.1155. TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT. (a) Authorizes a magistrate to be terminated by a majority vote of all the judges of the district and statutory county courts of Comal County.
 - (b) Requires the local administrative judge of the district courts serving Comal County, in order to terminate a magistrate's employment, to sign a written order of termination. Requires the order to state certain information.
- Sec. 54.1156. JURISDICTION; RESPONSIBILITY; POWERS. (a) Requires the judges of the district or statutory county courts to establish standing orders to be followed by a magistrate or parties appearing before a magistrate, as applicable.
 - (b) Provides that to the extent authorized by this subchapter and the standing orders a magistrate has jurisdiction to exercise the authority granted by the judges of the district or statutory county courts.
 - (c) Provides that a magistrate has all of the powers of a magistrate under the laws of this state and may administer an oath for any purpose.
 - (d) Requires a magistrate to give preference to performing the duties of a magistrate under Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure.
 - (e) Provides that a magistrate is authorized to perform certain duties.
 - (f) Authorizes a magistrate, with the express authorization of a justice of the peace, to exercise concurrent criminal jurisdiction with the justice of the peace to dispose as provided by law of cases filed in the precinct of the authorizing justice of the peace, except for a trial on the merits following a plea of not guilty.
 - (g) Authorizes a magistrate to perform certain duties.

Sec. 54.1157. PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT, AND OFFICE SPACE. Requires the Commissioners Court of Comal County to provide personnel for the legal or clerical functions necessary to perform the magistrate's duties authorized by this chapter and to provide sufficient equipment and office space for the magistrate and personnel to perform the magistrate's essential functions.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 18, 2003

TO: Honorable Robert Duncan, Chair, Senate Committee on Jurisprudence

FROM: John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB629 by Wentworth (Relating to the creation of magistrates in Comal County.), As

Introduced

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Under the bill, the Commissioners Court of Comal County may authorize the judges of the district and statutory county courts in Comal county to appoint one or more part-time or full-time magistrates. The bill would take immediate effect if it receives a two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2003.

Local Government Impact

Because the bill would not have statewide impact on units of local government of the same type or class, no comment from this office is required by the rules of the House/Senate as to its probable fiscal implication on units of local government.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff:

JK, GO, DLBa

THE NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD-ZEITUNG NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD-ZEITUNG

ATTN: NINFA CORDERO COMAL COUNTY PURCHASING 150 N SEGUIN AVE SUITE 201 NEW BRAUNFELS TX 78130-0000

REFERENCE: 12508131

PO# 25271

509517

INV 3874/PUBLIC NOTI

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COMAL

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day, personally appeared, Doug Toney, who being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung: that said newspaper is regularly published in Comal County and generally circulated in Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Bexar counties, Texas; that the attached: notice was published on the following date.

Doug

oney--Publisher

and

PUBLISHED ON: 01/01

FILED ON: 01/02/03

Subscribed and sworn before me this 2002___A.D.

ROSIE MV WILLINGHAM NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF TEXAS My COMM. EXP. 05-24-2004

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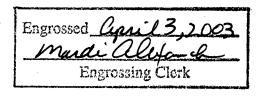
comal County Commis-PUBLIC NOTICE onblishes

Relating to the cof a second

REQUEST FOR LOCAL & UNCONTESTED CALENDAR PLACEMENT

SENATOR CHRIS HARRIS, CHAIR	MAN				
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ADMIN	ISTRATION				
Notice is hereby given that	B 629	_, by	whiterth		,
vas heard by the Committee on	(Bill No.)	lexe	(Author/Sponsor	10	2003
and reported out with the recommen	dation that it be	placed on the Loca	al and Uncontested	d Calendar.	
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IMPORTANT: A COPY OF THIS FORM MUST BE ATTACHED TO A **COMMITTEE PRINTED VERSION** OF THE BILL OR RESOLUTION AND SHOULD BE DELIVERED TO THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OFFICE, E1.714. DEADLINES FOR SUBMITTING BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON A REGULAR BASIS.



By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 629

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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S.B. No. 629

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LBB Staff:

JK, GO, DLBa

THE NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD-ZEITUNG NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

NEW BRAUNFELS HERALD-ZEITUNG

ATTN: NINFA CORDERO COMAL COUNTY PURCHASING 150 N SEGUIN AVE SUITE 201 NEW BRAUNFELS TX 78130-0000

REFERENCE: 12508131

PO# 25271

509517

INV 3874/PUBLIC NOTI

STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF COMAL

Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day, personally appeared, Doug Toney, who being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung: that said newspaper is regularly published in Comal County and generally circulated in Comal, Guadalupe, Hays, and Bexar counties, Texas; that the attached notice was published on the following date.

Doug

oney--Publisher

and

PUBLISHED ON: 01/01

FILED ON:

01/02/03

Subscribed and sworn before me this 2003___A.D.

ROSIE MV WILLINGHAM NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF TEXAS MY COMM. EXP. 05-24-2004

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unincorporated areas of es, by lo-increase the county;

Telating to auth,
for counties, by

Legislature:
Relating to the creation of a second county court at law in conjunction with amending the matters in which the district courts and county courts at law of Commal County will have concurrent jurisdiction.
Relating to the creation of a limited-jurisdiction magistrate primarily to function as a jail magis-

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> erks for of the security; enhancing to properly 음 Relating to a tion for countie cal option, to fees collected b and county of the purpose courthouse Relating to the funding t

Relating to authoriza-tion for counties, by lo-cal option, to collect im-pact fees as a part of its as a part of its ole regulation

County Commis PUBLIC NOTICE

Legal

-	120
S.B. No	629

Bv	Wentworks	•	
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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT: relating to the creation of magistrates in Comal County.

FEB 2 1 2003	_ Filed with the Secretary of the Senate
FEB 2 7 2003	_ Read and referred to Committee onJURISPRUDENCE
MAR 2 4 2003	_ Reported favorably
	Reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute; Committee Substitute read first time.
	_ Ordered not printed
APR 0 3 2003	Laid before the Senate Senate and Constitutional Rules to permit consideration suspended by: \[\begin{align*} \text{unanimous consent} \\ \text{unanimous permit} \\ \text{unanimous consent} \\ \text{unanimous permit} \\ unanimou
_APR 0 3 2003	Read second time,, and ordered engrossed by: \begin{align*} \text{unanimous consent} & \text{a viva voce vote} & \text{yeas, nays} \end{align*}
_APR 0 3 2003	Senate and Constitutional 3 Day Rule suspended by a vote of 31 yeas, 0 nays.
APR 0 3 2003	Read third time,, and passed by:
	SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
OTHER ACTION	v:
april 3, 2003	Engrossed
april 3,2003	Sent to House
Engrossing Clerk	Mardi alyand
APR 0 3 2003	Received from the Senate
PR 0 7 2003	Read first time and referred to Committee on
	Reportedfavorably (as amended) (as substituted)
	Sent to Committee on (Calendars) (Local & Consent Calendars)
	Read second time (comm. subst.) (amended); passed to third reading (failed) by a (non-record vote) (record vote of yeas, nays, present, not voting)
	Constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days suspended (failed to suspend) by a vote of yeas, nays, present, not voting.
	Read third time (amended); finally passed (failed to pass) by a (non-record vote) (record vote of yeas, nays, present, not voting)
	Returned to Senate.
	Returned from House with amendments CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE amendments
	Returned from House with amendments.
	Concurred in House amendments by a viva voce vote veas. navs.

	Refused to concur in House amendmento adjust the differences.	ents and requested the appointment of a Con	ference Committee
	_ Senate conferees instructed.		
	Senate conferees appointed:	, Chairman;	
		, and	
		conferees appointed:	
		and filed with the Secretary of the Senate.	
	_ Conference Committee Report adopt	ed on the part of the House by:	
	_ Conference Committee Report adopt		
		a viva voce vote yeas, nays	
OTHER AC	TION:		
	_ Recommitted to Conference Commit	ttee	
	_ Conferees discharged.		
Conference Committee Report failed of adoption by:			
		a viva voce vote	
		veas. navs	